

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 /056 W  
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R 240100Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4451  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
MAMEMBASSY LONDON 3062  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USINFO WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 1235/1

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY  
USINFO FOR IOP/M, IAA, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR,TZ, CU, XJ, XM, US  
SUBJ: CASTRO PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1197 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, LATIN  
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AMERICA, AND CUBAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, FROM PRESS CON-  
FERENCE GIVEN BY CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO IN DAR  
ES SALAAM ON MARCH 21, JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR MOZAMBIQUE  
AND ZAMBIA. FBIS HAS REPORTED VARIOUS EXCERPTS AND SUMMARIES  
OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ONLY ONE GIVEN BY CASTRO DURING  
HIS TANZANIAN VISIT, AND TANZANIAN NEWSPAPER SUMMARY WAS  
REPORTED REFTEL. THE TEXT REPORTED BELOW, WHICH IS PURPORTEDLY

VERBATIM OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS QUOTED, APPEARED IN MARCH 23  
TANZANIA DAILY NEWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUESTION: FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS YOU HAVE  
HAD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE. WHAT SPECIFIC AREAS DID YOUR  
DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE COVER?

ANSWER: WELL, IT WAS NOT THREE DAYS OF TALKS, IT WOULD NOT HAVE  
BEEN POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TAKE SO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM THE PRESIDENT.  
I TOURED DIFFERENT PLACES. I TALKED WITH DIFFERENT LEADERS.  
BUT ESSENTIALLY WE TALKED ABOUT MATTERS OF OUR COLLABORATION AND  
ABOUT QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE INTERNAIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION.  
IN ALL THESE QUESTIONS, WE BOTH HAVE COMMON POSITIONS OF STRUGGLING  
AGAINST IMPERIALISM, SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE  
STRUGGLING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND ALSO OF PEOPLE WHO ARE  
STRUGGLING AGAINST THE HATEFUL SYSTEM OF RACIAL OPPRESSION.

ESSENTIALLY THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT THESE  
QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO KNOW THE RESPONSE OF YOUR PRESIDENT, BECAUSE IT

IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE THE ANALYSIS OF THE APPROACH  
OF THE COUNTRIES IN THIS ZONE OF AFRICA ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: CUBA HAS PLAYED AN OUTSTANDING ROLE IN REPULSING THE  
AGGRESSIVE FORCES IN ANGOLA. WHAT FURTHER ROLE CAN CUBA PLAY IN  
THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA?

ANSWER: WE SUPPORT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE  
WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE STRUGGLE OF THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES  
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FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE, AMONG THE ANGOLA. IN THE CASE OF ANGOLA,  
THIS TOOK PLACE RIGHT AT THE MOMENT OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE,  
WHEN RIGHT THEN AN INVASION TOOK PLACE WITH BIG FORCES COMING FROM  
ABROAD, MAINLY FROM SOUTH AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICANS SENT  
ARMOURED UNITS WITH MANY TANKS WHICH WERE ADVANCING AT  
THE RATE OF 70 KM A DAY. THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE SAW THEMSELVES  
INVADED AND THEY ASKED FOR OUR SUPPORT.

OF COURSE, WE GAVE THEM THE SUPPORT. THAT WAS THE  
FUNDAMENTAL ROLE PLAYED BY US. THEY HAD ALL THE RIGHT TO DEMAND  
SUCH ASSISTANCE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. AS FAR AS NAMIBIA AND  
ZIMBABWE ARE CONCERNED, IMPERIALISTS WOULD LIKE TO TO KNOW:  
WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE COULD WE GIVE. FOR THE TIME BEING  
LET'S SAY THERE ARE VARIOUS COUNTRIES WHICH ARE STRUGGLING  
FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE. WE HAVE SYMPATHY FOR THEM. WE SHALL  
SUPPORT THEM AS WE HAVE SUPPORTED OTHER  
REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE. WE BELIEVE THE STRUGGLE FOR  
INDEPENDENCE IS PRIMARILY A TASK WHICH BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE  
THEMSELVES CONCERNED.

WELL, EACH PEOPLE WITH SALIDARITY AND SUPPORT OF ALL OTHER PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE, ARE THEN ONE WHO MUST REALISE THE STRUGGLE FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE. THAT IS INDEPENDENCE. THAT IS, INDEPENDENCE IS NOT BROUGHT FROM ABROAD. IT IS CONQUERED FROM INSIDE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES. THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED IN ANGOLA. THE ANGOLANS WON THEIR INDEPENDENCE. OF GREATER IMPORTANCE IS THAT THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CAME AT THE MOMENT WHEN AN INVASION FROM ABROAD TOOK PLACE.

I THINK ALSO THAT, CONCERNING THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MAIN ROLE BELONGS TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE FRONTLINE COUNTRIES, AND WE, TO THE EXTENT OF OUR POSSIBILITIES, DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE ARE A COUNTRY THAT IS VERY FAR AWAY, SHALL GIVE OUR COLLABORATION. BUT IT SHOULD BE THE AFRICAN MAIN DETERMINE SUCH FORMS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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COLLABORATION.

QUESTION: A FEW YEARS AGO, THE SITUATION IN LATIM AMERICA LOOKED RIPE FOR THE REVOLUTION, AT LEASE FROM THIS SIDE OF THE WORLD; BUT NOW IT IS NOT VERY BRIGHT. CAN YOU MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION FOR US?

ANSWER: SITUATIONS ARE ALWAYS RIPE FOR REVOLUTIONS SOONER OR LATER. THE SITUATION IS THAT IN LATIM AMERICA, HISTORICALLY THE RULE OF THE IMPERIALISTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY STRONG. IMPERIALISM REACTS AGAINST THE PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA WITH MUCH MORE FORCE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. YANKEE IMPE- RIALISM IS VERY AGGRESSIVE AGAINST THE PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA. THAT IS WHAT THEY HAVE DONE WITH CUBA FOR MANY YEARS AND CUBA HAS BEEN ABLE TO WITHSTAND THIS PRESSURE.

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INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 /056 W

-----240459Z 069108 /21

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4452

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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IN FACT, IMPERIALISM IN LATIN AMERICA IS COMING WITH FORCES IT DID NOT HAVE IN AFRICA. THEY HAVE THERE A NATIONAL BOURGEOISIE, WHICH HAS THE CONTROL OF MOST OF THE THE MASS MEDIA AND IN MANY FORCES WHICH HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND EQUIPPED BY THEM. THEY HAVE USED THE SUPPORT OF THESE FORCES IN ORDER TO CRUSH THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA.

BUT AMONG THE MASSES, CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE IMPERIALIST OPPRESSION AND THEIR REVOLT IS GROWING. THAT IS WHY IMPERIALISM HAS HAD TO TAKE RECOURSE TO FASCIST REGIMES TO UNCLASSIFIED

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APPLY VIOLENT, TERRIBLE REPRESSION, TORTURE, MURDER, EXTERMINATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CADRES AND FIGHTERS. FASCISM IS THE LAST RECOURSE THAT YANKEE IMPERIALISM HAS IN LATIN AMERICA. AFTER THAT THEY WILL NOT HAVE ANYTHING LEFT FOR THEM TO PREVENT THE REVOLUTION.

ONE CANNOT ASSESS THE PROBLEMS IN LATIN AMERICA USING THE SAME TERMS WHICH ARE USED TO ANALYSE THE SITUATION IN AFRICA. THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA ARE MORE INDEPENDENT THAN THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA.

AS YOU KNOW, IN AFRICA THERE ARE ALSO NEO-COLONIALIST GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE AT THE SERVICE OF IMPERIALISM. BUT ONE CAN TALK OF SOCIALISM IN AFRICA, AND MANY TALK OF SOCIALISM IN AFRICA.

BUT IN LATIN AMERICAN NOBODY CAN TALK OF SOCIALISM WITHOUT  
AWAKENING BLOCKADES AND THE AGGRESSION OF THE IMPERIALISTS.

QUESTION: WHAT FUTURE IS THERE THEN FOR THE SOCIALIST  
REVOLUTION IN LATIN AMERICA, COMRADE PRESIDENT?

ANSWER: THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT AND THEY WILL FIGHT.  
AFTER ALL, SOCIALISM IS THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR ALL UNDER-  
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. FOR, WITH CAPITALISM THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE  
TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS. WE SEE EVERYWHERE WHAT WAS LEFT BY CAPITALISM,

THE EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN; THE MOST HORRIBLE DISCRIMINATION,  
LACK OF TECHNOLOGY. ALONG THOSE ROADS THE PROBLEMS OF OUR  
PEOPLE CANNOT BE SOLVED. THESE PROBLEMS ARE TRULY GIGANTIC AND ARE  
A  
RESULT OF CENTURIES OF COLONIALISM AND NE-COLONIALISM.

THEY ALL INDICATE THAT THROUGH CAPITALISM NONE OF THESE CAN  
BE SOLVED. ONLY THROUGH A VERY HARD STRUGGLE, THROUGH A VERY  
GREAT EFFORT, AND IN VERY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, CAN A SOLUTION BE  
FOUND FOR THESE PROBLEMS. OTHERWISE, THE PEOPLE HAVE THE  
ALTERNATIVE OF CHOOSING THE SOCIAL REGIME WHICH WILL SOLVE THEIR  
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PROBLEMS, OR ELSE IT IS QUITE AN INTOLERABLE SITUATION. I SHOULD  
SAY THAT SOCIALISM IS A QUESTION OF LIFE OR DEATH FOR UNDER-DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES. AND SINCE PEOPLE WON'T RESIGN THEMSELVES TO DIE, THEY WILL

FIGHT FOR PROGRESS AND FOR THEIR LIFE.

QUESTION: IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING TO  
NORMALISE RELATIONS WITH CUBA. UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS CAN THIS  
BE DONE?

ANSWER: THE CONDITION FOR SUCH NORMALISATION IS THAT WE MUST  
STOP OUR SOLIDARITY WITH REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS TO GIVE YOU JUST  
AN EXAMPLE\*

THE UNITED STATES KEEPS A NAVAL BASE ON OUR TERRITORY BY FORCE.  
THE US HAS PROMOTED SUBVERSION AGAINST OUR COUNTRY, MERCENARY  
INVASIONS. IF THEY SHOULD CEASE DOING SUCH ACTS, LIFT THE BLOCKADE  
AGAINST

CUBA; RESPECT INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLE THEN THERE MIGHT BE A  
POLITICAL BASIS FOR DISCUSSING NORMALISATION OF DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS. WE THINK THAT IT WILL BE USEFUL FOR BOTH NATIONS THAT  
THIS STATE OF HOSTILITY SHOULD CEASE. WE WILL NOT TELL THEM TO RE-  
NOUNCE

CAPITALISM, JUST AS WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS AS  
FAR AS

OUR SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES AND REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES ARE

CONCERNED. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE ON THE BASIS  
OF MUTUAL RESPECT, PEACE CO-EXISTENCE AMONG OUR TWO DIFFERENT SOCIAL  
SYSTEMS.  
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## Message Attributes

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